

houses throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. In recognition of his dedication, James earned the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award. As for many Eagle Scouts, this honor is merely the beginning of success, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

The honor of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is truly a momentous occasion for James Reid and his family and has come as a result of his diligence and hard work. I thank James for representing St. Charles and the State of Missouri in such an exemplary manner.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY WILSON

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I take a moment to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of a young citizen from Massachusetts, 10-year-old Johnny Wilson. Last October, Johnny set a world record as the youngest person ever to swim from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park in San Francisco, a distance of 1.4 miles. It was an impressive accomplishment in and of itself, but Johnny's swim had far greater meaning and purpose than setting a record. For every quarter mile he swam, Johnny collected pledges for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and his swim produced over \$150,000.

Johnny first got the idea from a family friend, Rick Murray, an Iron Man triathlete, who suggested the idea after noticing Johnny's strength as a swimmer and offered to be his coach. Johnny spent over a year in training, swimming 10 miles a week in pools during the school year and in the ocean near Hyannis Port during the summer. In addition, he spent 3 months training in the cold water of the San Francisco Bay to further prepare for the conditions of his swim.

Johnny first got the idea to use his swimming ability to raise funds last September, when his school began to emphasize efforts to aid the victims of Katrina. He and seven of his classmates rallied the local community, calling all the families they knew and asking for pledges for every quarter mile of the swim that Johnny would complete. By the day of the swim, these efforts had already yielded over \$30,000 in donations.

The swim began before sunrise at 6 a.m. last October 10. The large waves, freezing water, and the fact that he was the only child attempting the swim did not deter Johnny from diving in the water that morning. Flanked 10 feet on either side by adult safety swimmers and kayaks in case of an emergency, Johnny swam into Aquatic Park Cove 1 hour 6 minutes later to the cheers of his family, teacher, and classmates. Halfway through the swim, he stopped to warm his numbed limbs, but when asked if wanted to stop swimming, he said no and continued on his way. His commitment to himself and to the Katrina victims he wanted to help enabled him to deal with the long, cold waters to reach his goal.

The media attention to Johnny's swim and its admirable purpose increased his fundraising ability. Word of his mission spread in over 600 broadcasts in 20 countries and led to appearances on the "Today Show", "Oprah" and "CNN." The additional publicity helped raise \$20,000 more for Johnny's cause, as people throughout the country and around the world were touched by the strength of his spirit and heart demonstrated by this remarkable young man. In the end, Johnny was able to make an amazing contribution of \$51,000 to the Hurricane Katrina victims' fund of the Red Cross.

Able and caring young people like Johnny inspire a new sense of hope for the Nation's future. He demonstrated the difference that one committed person can make in bringing people together to touch the lives of others. I commend Johnny Wilson for his impressive achievement, his caring heart, and his wonderful contribution to the lives of those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He represents the best of our country, and I wish him well in the years ahead.●

#### PLANKINTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Plankinton, SD. The town of Plankinton will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

The county seat of Aurora County, Plankinton officially became a town in 1881. Plankinton is well known for being South Dakota's No. 1 hunting and fishing destination. Plankinton has much to be proud of, and I am sure the next 125 years will be even more productive and noteworthy.

I offer my congratulations to Plankinton on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### VIVIAN, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Vivian, SD, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

Located in Lyman County, Vivian was founded during an extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad rail lines in 1906 and was named after the wife of one of their officials. Vivian is a welcoming community that reflects the values and principles that we as Americans hold dear.

I offer my congratulations to Vivian on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### MT. VERNON, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Mt. Vernon, SD. The town of Mt. Vernon will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Davison County, Mt. Vernon was originally named Arlandton and served as a shelter for pioneers on their way to Fort Thomp-

son trail. The name was changed to Mt. Vernon with the arrival of the railroad in 1881.

I offer my congratulations to Mt. Vernon on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the 100th anniversary of the town of Mobridge and its citizens' dedication to the Main Street Revitalization Project.

Beginning as a parcel of private land, Mobridge was founded when GEN S. E. Olson, bridged the gap between the two banks of the Missouri River to provide the opportunity for a railway crossing. Although Mobridge began as a railroad town, it thrives today as community that continues to make industrial and economic progress while offering several scenic opportunities to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the town of Mobridge in celebration of their centennial festivities and hope that this "Grand Crossing" into the next 100 years will be as fruitful as the first.●

#### MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary celebration of Miller, SD.

Located in Hand County, the town of Miller was originally founded in 1881 by pioneer Henry Miller. Since its founding 125 years ago, the community of Miller has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to Miller on this milestone accomplishment and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### IONA, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Iona, SD. The town of Iona will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Lyman County, Iona celebrates its centennial on the year the town cemetery was founded, 1906. Although Iona has never officially been incorporated, it is an example of the values and traditions found in communities throughout South Dakota.

I offer my congratulations to Iona on their centennial, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### HOWARD, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Howard, SD. The town of